



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

October 31, 1978

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. Thomas R. Browne  
Department of Neurology  
VA Hospital  
150 South Huntington Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 01230

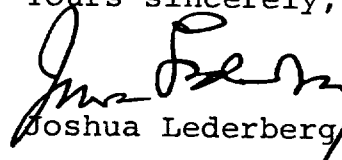
Dear Dr. Browne:

Thank you for the review of clonazepam that appeared in the October 12th issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

I noticed your remark that a large part of the nitro material is reduced to the 7-amino compound. Does this occur as readily with parenterally administered drugs as per os? Is there any specific information on the organ responsible for this reduction?

Finally, in view of the potential for aromatic amines to become hydroxylaminated to derivatives that often have mutagenic and perhaps carcinogenic activity I wonder if there has been a specific search for these effects with this drug. I am not suggesting that such findings would influence one's conclusion about the risk benefit equation but am simply inquiring about the availability of this information.

Yours sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg